

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MILAN 00127 241358Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 0127

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINR, IT
SUBJECT: MILANS NEW DC CITY SECRETARY, ALBERTO GAROCCHIO

SUMMARY: NEW DC CITY SECRETARY ELECTED JAN 18, 1977. SUPPORTED
BY STRANGE MIX OF LEFT AND RIGHT FACTIONS, GAROCCHIO CLAIMS TO
REPRESENT SOLID CENTER MAJORITY OPPOSED TO GOVERNING WITH COMMUNISTS
AND LOOKING TO REVIVED ALLIANCE WITH SOCIALISTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN FINAL HARD FOUGHT AND TANGLED STRUGGLE, MAJOR LOMBARDY
PARTY SLOTS NOW FILLED WITH MID-NIGHT ELECTION 38 YEAR OLD ALBERTO
GAROCCHIO. TOUGH, MILITANT CATHOLIC MEMBER TOP LEADERSHIP OF
CLERICAL COMUNION AND LIBERATION (C&L) MOVEMENT, MEMBER OF
MILAN CITY COUNCIL, GAROCCHIO HAS REPUTATION AS ONE OF SMARTEST
OF C&L CREW MUCH RESPECTED IF NOT ESPECIALLY BELOVED BY MILAN
POLITICAL COMMUNITY.

2. GAROCCHIO ELECTED WITH SUPPORT HIS OWN C&L PLUS BASE BREAK-
AWAY LEADER MAZZOTTA, SMALL FARM OWNERS (COLDIRETTI) AND OTHER
CONSERVATIVE GROUPS PLUS MIN AGRIC MARCORA'S LEFT WING BASE GROUP.
DE CAROLIS ENERGETICALLY OPPOSED SELECTION AND, WHILE HAVING
NOMINAL MAJORITY IN CITY PARTY ORGANIZATION WAS REDUCED TO
MARGINAL VOICE IN CITY SECRETARIAT WHICH CENTER-RIGHT HAD LONG
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MILAN 00127 241358Z

CONTROLLED. NOW DE CAROLIS IS MOUNTING COUNTER-ATTACK IN HOPE
OF RE-CAPTURING CIT ORGANIZATION.

3. PRESS CONCLUDED CENTER/LEFT HAD PREVAILED AND CENTER RIGHT
DEFEATED. COMMUNISTS ISSUED FRIENDLY STATEMENT WELCOMING GAROCCHIO'S
"REALISTIC" POSITION AND REJOICING IN DE CAROLIS' DEFEAT.

4. CONGEN CALLED ON GAROCCHIO JAN 21 TO GET HIS VERSION OF WHO WON.

5. MEETING IN RUN-DOWN DC CITY HEADQUARTERS, GAROCCHIO, IN KEEPING WITH C&L'S COOL ATTITUDE TOWARD CAPITALISM WAS A LITTLE LESS FRIENDLY THAN EITHER MAZZOTTA OR REGIONAL SECRETARY GAZZETTO. MEDIUM BUILD, DARK CURLY HAIR, SLOW TO SMILE AND NOT GIVEN TO BANTER, GAROCCHIO IS DEAD SERIOUS ABOUT HIS JOB.

6. HE DISMISSED COMMUNIST COMPLIMENTS AS POISON PEN AND REJECTED ANY ALLIANCE WITH THEM AT ANY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT. GAROCCHIO READY AGREE ON SPECIFIC POLICIES OR ACTIONS AS LONG AS THERE IS CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN DC AND PCI. IF BOTH ENTER SAME GOVERNMENT, THERE WOULD BE NO OPPOSITION AND ITALIAN DEMOCRACY ENTER TWENTY YEAR DARKNESS. DC COULD NEVER SURVIVE COHABITATION IN GOVERNMENT WITH PCI WHICH WOULD DESTROY IT. ON OTHER HAND, HE REJECTED DE CAROLI'S POSITION OF OUTRIGHT CONFRONTATION AT THIS TIME (SIC) SINCE COMMUNISTS WOULD WIN, HANDS DOWN. TODAY, HE SAID, PCI CAN COMMAND STREETS WHEN IT WISHES AND DC CANNOT.

7. SIMILARLY, GAROCCHIO DISMISSED SUPPORT BY BASE (MARCORA, GRANELLI) AS UNNECESSARY FOR HIS ELECTION AND UNDESIRE.DHE WAS NOT THEIR CAPTIVE ALTHOUGH MARCORA, TRYING TO PAPER OVER SPLIT WITH MAZZOTTA, HAD MOVED TO RIGHT TO BE PART OF WINNING COALITION.

8. GAROCCHIO RESPECTED MARCORA AS TOUGH, ABLE WELL INTENTIONED IF RUTHLESS BOSS. MAZZOTTA'S COURAGE IN BREAKING WITH HIM WAS EXCEPTIONAL SINCE MARCORA NEVER FORGOT TO SETTLE SCORES. BUT MARCORA AND HIS SUPPORTERS BELIEVED PCI ADMISSION TO GOVERNMENT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MILAN 00127 241358Z

INEVITABLE. GAROCCHIO DID NOT AND THIS WAS ISSUE SPLITTING DC AT EVERY LEVEL IN LOMBARDY.

9. ACCORDING GAROCCHIO, CENTER HAD PREVAILED IN MILAN AS IT HAD IN PROVINCE WITH ELECTION MAZZOTTA. NOW EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO EXPLOIT DIFFERENCES WITHIN MARCORA GROUP WHICH WERE SERIOUS THREAT TO ITS UNITY IN OTHER PROVINCIAL CAPITALS.

10. AS FOR NATIONAL SCENE, ANDREOTTI WAS DOING OUTSTANDING JOB AND OF MUCH HELP TO RE-ESTABLISHING DC IMAGE. BUT SO MUCH DEPENDED UPON HIS ABILITY PULL ITALY THROUGH RECESSION THAT IF HE FAILED, PCI COULD WALK IN TO TAKE OVER GOVERNMENT.

11. SHOULD PCI REFUSE FURTHER SUPPORT TO ANDREOTTI, GAROCCHIO WANTED FALL BACK ON "RAPIDLY MATURING" PSI PLUS MINOR LAY PARTIES. AND IF THAT IMPOSSIBLE, HE FAVORED DC GOING TO OPPOSITION TO ALLOW PCI AND PSI TO TRY TO RUN COUNTRY. BUT UNDER NO CONDITION COULD DC ENTER GOVERNMENT WITH COMMUNISTS. DC WOULD

BE SPLIT AND DESTROYED, HE WAS SURE.

12. FINALLY, GAROCCHIO CAUTIONED ABOUT VATICAN WHICH HE DIDN'T TRUST. HE SAW SIGNS OF FACTION FAVORING ACCOMMODATION WITH COMMUNISTS AND PROFESSED TO BE UNEASY ABOUT POPE'S PLANS, EVEN THOUGH HE SAID, MILANS CARDINAL COLOMBO WAS TOTALLY BEHIND VIEWS GAROCCHIO HAD OUTLINED.FINA

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